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COBB, ERNEST. *Garden Steps. A Manual for the Amateur in Vegetable Gardening.* Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co., 1917. Pp. ix+226. \$0.60.

Here is a book that will be of great value to the amateur in vegetable gardening. In it one finds gathered into a single section necessary information regarding the culture and care of each important vegetable for the home garden. This information is so arranged that the amateur may take each necessary step in its proper turn, guided by clear, explicit directions, in the care and culture of a number of important vegetables. Besides chapters on canning and drying, sprays and poisons, garden plans, fall and winter preparation, and tools, there is a chapter devoted to each of the following: asparagus, beans, beets and chard, the cabbage family, carrots and parsnips, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, potatoes, radishes, rhubarb, squash, spinach, tomatoes, and turnips. The simple and explicit directions relative to each of these vegetables concern the kinds to choose, methods of planting, cultivation, enemies, and storing.

In writing *Garden Steps* the author has kept the needs of the classroom and school garden clearly in mind. Since few children enjoy the privilege of expert guidance in plant culture and garden work, a text covering the subject thoroughly and written in simple language which the child can easily understand will be of great service to those interested in school gardening. With such a book in the hands of each pupil the garden work may be made definite and successful. Directions needed in the early spring for planting are fully given as well as instructions relative to tending the growing plants and gathering and storing the ripened crop. Since almost every school is planning in some way to help solve the urgent question of the food supply by means of home gardening, the book ought to find its way into the hands of thousands of amateur gardeners, both young and old.

*Survey of the Public-School System of San Francisco, California.*¹ United States Bureau of Education, Bulletin No. 46, 1917. Washington: Government Printing Office. \$0.60.

The survey of the public-school system of San Francisco was undertaken in December, 1915. This survey was made by a group of specialists of the Bureau of Education, assisted by several educators from outside. The report as published contains sixteen chapters relating to different phases of the school work. The survey is one of the most important undertaken by the bureau.

The report points out that the public schools of San Francisco cannot be successfully administered until the present method makes way for a plan of control giving more freedom to educational forces. This change involves changes in the state constitution and city charter. The county should be relieved of the necessity of electing a county superintendent. The charter should be so amended as to provide for the creation of a board of education which would be independent of all other branches of city government. This

¹ This and the three following reviews were contributed by L. V. Cavins, Fellow in Education, University of Chicago.